

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-05 ACDA-10

PM-03 L-02 NASA-02 NSC-05 OES-05 OIC-02 IO-10 AF-06

ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 /109 W
----- 052420

R 071422Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0906

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06914

E.O. LL652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ETEL, IMCO

SUBJ: IMCO: MARITIME SATELLITE CONFERENCE, SITREP 10

1. COMMITTEE II OPENED MAY 6 SESSION WITH
CONTINUING EXAMINATION OF GROUP OF EXPERTS REPORT ON
INITIAL INVESTMENT SHARES. US, WHILE NOT OBJECTING
TO SUBMISSION OF GOE REPORT TO PLENARY, NOTED LIMITED
USEFULNESS OF IT IN US VIEW, SINCE (L) MARITIME
TRAFFIC EXISTING AT TIME MEMBERS SUBSCRIBE INITIAL
INVESTMENT NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT AND (2) ASSUMPTION
REGARDING RATIO OF SHIP/SHORE VS. SHORE/SHIP TRAFFIC
INAPPROPRIATE AND FINALLY (3) ONLY L9 STATES HAD
SUBMITTED TRAFFIC DATA, RESULTING IN EXPERTS

ASSESSMENT BEING BASED ON AT BEST 85 PERCENT OF WORLD
MARITIME TRAFFIC.

2. SOME DELS STATED EXPERTS WORK NONETHELESS
USABLE AS BASIS FOR STARTING POINT OF INITIAL SHARES
NEGOTIATIONS. US DID NOT OBJECT TO THIS
LIMITED USE AND COMMITTEE II AGREED TO SUBMIT PAPER
TO PLENARY.

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3. PLENARY: PLENARY BEGAN WITH CONSIDERATION OF

COMMITTEE I REPORT. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE I IN SUMMARIZING REPORT NOTED BULK OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN ON ISSUE OF WHETHER ASSEMBLY SHOULD HAVE POWER TO DETERMINE (WORD DETERMINE STRESSED) BROAD POLICY OF INMARSAT ORGANIZATION. SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE I BELIEVED ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE THE "SUPREME ORGAN" OF INMARSAT AND SHOULD HAVE SUCH POWER BUT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS MAINTAINED THE BROAD

POLICY ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL AND OBJECTED TO THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE ASSEMBLY AS THE "SUPREME ORGAN" OF INMARSAT. QUESTION OF RELATIONSHIP OF ASSEMBLY TO COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED AND THE NEED WHICH SOME SAW TO HAVE SPECIFIC DUTIES OF EACH SET OUT IN ARTICLES ESTABLISHING THE BODIES.

4. CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE I ALSO NOTED THAT LIST OF FUNCTIONS OF ASSEMBLY PROVIDED IN REPORT WAS NOT EXHAUSTIVE BUT ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE OF SOME ELEMENTS OF BROAD POLICY TO BE GIVEN TO ASSEMBLY.

5. PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE I REPORT PRODUCED NO DISCUSSION AND CHAIR NOTED REPORT HAD BEEN ADOPTED.

6. THE REPORT OF COMMITTEE II WAS THEN PRESENTED; THIS WAS REPORT OF GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INITIAL SHARES. US DOUBTS ON UTILITY OF EXPERTS WORK NOTED. ISSUE OF

FURTHER TRAFFIC DATA REQUIREMENTS RAISED BY SOME COMMITTEE II DELEGATIONS. CHAIRMAN MENTIONED THAT IT APPEARED SENSE OF COMMITTEE II WAS THAT, RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS ON DATA AVAILABLE, IT STILL POSSIBLE TO BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE INITIAL SHARES ON PRESENT DATA.

7. SOME DELS PROPOSED THAT FURTHER DATA BE SOLICITED AND THAT A FORM BE DEVELOPED AT CONFERENCE TO SEND TO STATES. US AGREED ON NEED FOR IMPROVED UNCLASSIFIED

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DATA AND SUGGESTED INTERSESSIONAL GROUP BE ESTABLISHED TO WORK ON THIS WITH VIEW TO SIZING SYSTEM AND ESTABLISHING INITIAL INVESTMENT SHARES.

8. US PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP OF PLENARY AT CONFERENCE TO EXAMINE TOPICS TO BE IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING FURTHER STUDY. US PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS WORKING GROUP AND,

AS AMENDED BY OTHER DELS AND ADDITION OF FINAL PHRASE
BY PRESIDENT, THEY WERE ADOPTED AS FOLLOWS:

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R 071422Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0907

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"(1) TO REVIEW TOPICS FOR FURTHER STUDY IN THE
LIGHT OF THE NEEDS OF THIS CONFERENCE AND OF THE
ANTICIPATED ORGANIZATION; (2) TO RECOMMEND A LIST OF
TOPICS ON WHICH FURTHER STUDY OUGHT TO BE DONE IN
ORDER TO FACILITATE THE CONTINUING WORK OF THE
CONFERENCE; (3) TO PROPOSE THE BEST MECHANISMS
FOR CONDUCTING SUCH STUDIES; (4) TO SUBMIT ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THIS PLENARY FOR DECISION BY THE
CONFERENCE. CONSIDERATION OF THE WORKING GROUP
SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD ASSISTING THE WORK OF THE
CONFERENCE AND SHOULD NOT PRE-EMPT THE WORK OF THE
INMARSAT ORGANIZATION TO BE ESTABLISHED."

9. AFTER FURTHER DEBATE INCLUDING A STRONG INITIAL
OBJECTION TO WG IDEA BY THE BRITISH, THE WG WAS
ESTABLISHED WITH 22 MEMBERS INCLUDING THE U.S.
THE WG IS TO COMPLETE WORK AND REPORT TO PLENARY

BEFORE C.O.B. MAY 7.

10. DURING COURSE OF DEBATE INDIA SUPPORTED BY JAPAN

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SUGGESTED FURTHER STUDY BE GIVEN TO POSSIBLE USE OF LEASED MULTIPURPOSE SATELLITES FROM INTELSAT BY PROSPECTIVE INMARSAT ORGANIZATION. RATIONALE BASED ON FACT THAT ECONOMIES RESULTING FROM USE OF EXISTING INTELSAT EARTH STATIONS AT LEAST IN INITIAL YEARS OF INMARSAT WOULD HAVE POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON MANY STATES IN THEIR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW ORGANIZATION. THIS SUGGESTION WAS NOT DEBATED FURTHER.

11. AT END OF PLENARY SESSION, THERE WAS A DEBATE OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO BE MADE BY CONFERENCE TO GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY CONSIDER ALLOWING THE USE OF SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ON BOARD SHIP WHILE SHIPS ARE IN PORT. PERU, CHILE, SAUDI ARABIA AND ARGENTINA SPOKE AGAINST PROPOSAL, SEVERAL OTHERS INCLUDING THE US SUPPORTED IT. CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE IS TO CONTINUE WHEN PLENARY RECONVENES 11:00 A.M. MAY 7.

12. THE WORKING GROUP (PARA 9 ABOVE) MET FOR

APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS IN THE AFTERNOON WITH DISCUSSION CENTERING ABOUT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP, WORKING PROCEDURES, AND STANDARDS TO BE USED IN SELECTING SUBJECTS TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE PLENARY FOR FURTHER STUDY. SOME DELEGATIONS INDICATED INVESTMENT SHARE QUESTION ONLY NECESSARY STUDY ITEM. UK SUGGESTED WORK ON POE DRAFT AGREEMENT MOST APPROPRIATE. LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR US PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL/ECONOMIC STUDY AREAS. NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS MADE. WORKING GROUP MEETS AGAIN MAY 7.

13. ON MAJOR ISSUE OF ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS AND DESIGNATED ENTITIES, UK HOSTED DINNER MONDAY FOR US AND USSR IN ATTEMPT TO REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING. AFTER STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AND CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF SYSTEM TO THE SOVIET UNION, KOLESNITCHENKO, HEAD OF SOVIET DELEGATION, AGREED TO RECONVENE GROUP OF YERS FROM THREE DELEGATIONS. PURPOSE OF RECONVENED GROUP WOULD BE TO INCLUDE IN DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR COMMITTEE I REPORT REFERENCE TO IMPORTANCE

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AND RECOGNITION OF TRADITIONAL SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES
OF GOVERNMENTS AND SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO TWO
AGREEMENTS. GROUP MET TUESDAY, PRODUCED DRAFT
ACCEPTABLE TO US AND USSR DELEGATIONS, BUT USSR
REQUESTED 24 HOURS TO CONTACT MOSCOW FOR APPROVAL.

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